

The Classification of Butterflies

The LYCENID^B, the "Gossamer-winged Butterflies."

This great family comprises the butterflies which are familiarly known as the "hair-streaks," the "blues," and the "coppers."

The males have four and the females six walking feet. The caterpillars are small, short, and slug-shaped. The chrysalids are provided with a girdle, are attached at the end of the abdomen, and lie closely appressed to the surface upon which they have undergone transformation. Blue is a very common color in this family, which includes some of the gayest of the small forms which are found in the butterfly world. In alighting they always carry their wings folded together and upright.

The PAPILIONID^E, the "Swallowtails" and their allies. These butterflies have six walking feet in both sexes. The caterpillars are elongate, and in some genera provided with osmateria, or protrusive organs secreting a powerful and disagreeable odor. The chrysalids are elongate, attached at the anal extremity, and held in place by a girdle of silk, but not closely appressed to the surface upon which they have undergone transformation.

The HESPERIID^A, or the "Skippers." They are generally small in size, with stout bodies, very quick and powerful flight. They have six walking feet in both sexes. The tibiae of the hind feet, with few exceptions, have spurs. The caterpillars are cylindrical, smooth, tapering forward and backward from the middle, and generally having large globular heads. For the most part they undergo transformation into chrysalids which have a girdle and an anal hook, or cremaster, in a loose cocoon, composed of a few threads of silk, and thus approximate the moths in their habits. The genus *Megathymus* has the curious habit of burrowing in its larval stage in the underground stems of the yucca.

To one or the other of these five families all the butterflies,

numbering about six hundred and fifty species,
which are found
from the Rio Grande of Texas to the arctic circle,
can be referred.

Scientific Names.— From what has been said it is
plain to the
reader that the student of this delightful branch of
science is cer-
tain to be called upon to use some rather long and,
at first sight,
uncouth words in the pursuit of the subject. But
experience,
that best of teachers, will soon enable him to
master any little
difficulties which may arise from this source, and he
will come
finally to recognize how useful these terms are in
designating dis-